

PATRIOT

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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Congress expands rights of Reservists

by SSgt. Christine Mora

In addition to the many challenges reservists face keeping their military duties up to snuff, they must also maintain a balance between their Reserve and civilian career. Congress has just made that a little easier.

Last December, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) went into effect, a result of efforts by Congress to update the Veteran's Re-employment Rights Act (VRRA) of 1954. The new act clarifies the law, improves enforcing mechanisms, and provides assistance from the Department of Labor.

Problems that surfaced following the activation of thousands of reservists and guardsmen during Operation Desert Storm prompted Congress to re-evaluate the 40-year law and adapt it to meet the needs of today's armed forces.

"The downsizing of the military over the last couple of years has meant more work for reservists and more occasion for duty," said Lt. Col. Bruce Hawley, 439th AW Staff Judge Advocate. "This precipitates the fact that employer-related issues are going to come up even more frequently."

Among the key changes in the new legislation is categorization of service. Under VRRA, confusing distinctions were made (active duty, technical schools, professional military education, voluntary active duty, etc.), but under the USERRA those distinctions have been eliminated and the rules depend upon the duration of service—not the category.

If the tour of duty is one to 30 days, the reservist must return to his or her

civilian job after allowing safe travel home and an eight-hour rest period. A 31 to 180-day tour would allow the reservist 14 days to apply for reemployment, and 90 days if the service is 181 days or more. The new statute also increases the limit of total duty from four to five years.

Health insurance has been a hot topic in the last couple of years, and the USERRA protects the coverage of reservists and their dependents.

For duty less than 31 days, health benefits continue at the regular rate. After 31 days or more, the employer must continue the coverage for 18 months, although the reservist may have to pay premium costs.

The new act stipulates that when a reservist is on active duty, the employer must consider he or she to be on furlough or leave of absence, and is not required to take vacation. The

Continued on page 4



DRIFTER — A Green Beret from D Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, ANG drifts down to Dogpatch area during a group parachute jump. More coverage on page 9. (Photo by SSgt. Mike Greco)

Recruiters push AF Reserve opportunities

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The drawdown by the active duty, base closures and budget cutbacks have created a public perception that the Air Force Reserve is not hiring and that there are no career opportunities today for young men and women.

This could not be further from the truth, according to CMSgt. Mike Winter, Westover's senior recruiter. "The Air Force Reserve is definitely open for business," he said. "There are all kinds of opportunities available for people who have prior service and those who have not."

"The Air Force is a leader in technical training. Recruits are guaranteed training--100 percent will receive skills training," he said.

Recruits may use this training toward college credit and an associate's degree in applied science from the Community College of the Air Force, Winter explained.

"Enlistees can also receive up to \$6,840 toward college tuition through the Montgomery G.I. Bill," he said.

"Despite the drawdown," Winter said, "we still offer excellent career opportunities for America's youth."

I would like to know more about opportunities available to me as a member of the Air Force Reserve

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Sex: _____

Address: _____ Apt. no. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Prior military service (if any): _____

Grade: _____ Specialty: _____

"With an ever-increasing emphasis placed on high-tech weapons systems, young people entering the Reserve today are able to choose from hundreds of skills."

As the active force gets smaller, more and more responsibilities will be thrust upon the Air Reserve Components, said Col. James P. Czekanski, commander of Westover's 439th Airlift Wing.

"The Air Force Reserve is operating at almost 90 percent of the level that we achieved during the peak of Desert Storm. So we need good people," he said.

In an effort to get reservists involved in the recruiting drive that is now taking place, a recruiting referral card appears on this page.

"The best source of leads for recruits comes from members of the unit," Winter said. "Who can better

explain the benefits and opportunities of the Reserve than reservists?"

The referral card may be filled out and returned to any of the recruiting offices listed below, or calls may be made to the numbers listed.

The recruiters will do the rest.

439 AW/RB
100 Walker Ave. Bldg. 110
Westover ARB
Chicopee, MA 01022
(413) 557-2125

USAFR Recruiting Office
555 Main St.
Manchester, CT 06040-5705
(203) 645-6700

USAFR Recruiting office
Building 1618 Room 302
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-5000
(617) 377-2840

USAFR Recruiting office
1215 Western Ave.
University Plaza
Albany, NY 12203-3317
(518) 438-3007

USAFR Recruiting Office
54 Bridge St.
Ansonia, CT 06401
(203) 735-2223

USAFR Recruiting Office
509 Main St. Park Plaza
Worcester MA 01608
(508) 753-7616

PATRIOT

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Kolodjay earns 22nd AF first sergeant honors

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When 22nd Air Force wanted the best first sergeant they could find they came to Westover and chose SMSgt. Edward Kolodjay, the 439th CRS first shirt. The NCO who always makes the extra effort to keep his squadron in the front was himself recognized as 22nd Air Force Outstanding First Sergeant.

In February, Kolodjay went to Robins AFB, Ga. to receive the certificate which is the capstone of a military career going back to 1963.

The 22nd Air Force honor was formal recognition of the respect he had already earned up and down the chain of command for his "can-do" approach to the job of first shirt of 150 members of the 439th CRS.

"Sergeant Kolodjay's the first person people come to when they have a problem. He knows how to get things done for people," said Lt. Col Diane Hamer, squadron commander.

"He's one of the most people-oriented people I ever met...every commander's dream as a first sergeant," she said.

When the first sergeant rolls up his sleeves to help one of his people, he has three decades of experience to draw upon. His high school diploma was brand new when he joined the Navy at 17.

Kolodjay served as an EC-121



SMSgt. Edward Kolodjay

crew chief and P-3A/B flight engineer in Keflavik, Iceland and at Tan Son Nhut AB, where he earned a Purple Heart in a rocket attack on April 13, 1966.

He came to Westover in 1978, serving as a C-130 pneumatics training supervisor and career advisor of the former 439th CAMS. He was named first sergeant of the former 439th AMS when the Galaxies came here in 1987. During Desert Shield/Storm he was among the senior NCOs who put in the long hours on the massive airlift, followed by the welcome home ceremonies.

Over the decades Kolodjay has seen military attitudes evolve and he has contributed to making the Air Force more people oriented. "In the '60s, the quality of life issues - housing, health care, child care - were not the big issues they are today. Now, the

way you judge your success as a supervisor is by how well you address the needs of the people who work for you," he said.

"The mission will always come first, but we recognize that the only way to do the mission is by getting everyone on the team in an enthusiastic way," he said.

"We need to keep it a big family. That means a first sergeant's job is everything from providing upgrade training to sitting down with someone to find out what's going on in their life," he said.

Anyone who knows Kolodjay knows he loves his job and respects his people. His squadron is made up of technicians responsible for the C-5's jet propulsion, electronic equipment, radios, navigation aids, weather radar, IFF, and ground equipment.

"These are the best of the best. It takes an enormous amount of expertise to fly and maintain the Galaxy. When you turn people loose on a multi-million dollar airplane that is very complex you want them performing at their best," the first sergeant said.

The 439th CRS first shirt holds a Westfield State College Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in administration and is a Chicopee School District adjustment counselor.

Welcome center to house Westover history

Westover has been making history for more than a half century, and now a group of volunteers is working to make sure that the base's achievements are never forgotten. The history of Westover, from the days of the brown shoe Army Air Corps to the Desert Storm northeast air station, will be preserved and displayed at a welcome center in Building 1100, one of the last of the base's wooden World War II structures.

Capt. Don Carlton and CMSgt. Robert Adams are seeking volunteers to help set up the display of Westover's half century of aviation. Westover was founded on a former tobacco field in 1940, named for the late Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover, former Army Air Corps chief of staff, when America was bracing for the onslaught of World War II.

The displays will include the history of the Northeast Air Base, when B-17 and B-24 Army Air Corps aircrews trained here during World War II; the Berlin Airlift when Westover was the East Coast bastion of the airbridge to Europe, the SAC B-52 era, when 8th Air Force was headquartered here and the 99th Bomb Wing deployed to Southeast Asia; and Desert Shield/Storm, when Westover reservists were key players in the Middle East airlift of troops and supplies, followed by the history making welcome home ceremonies.

Displays will be set up on a rotating basis in Bldg. 1100 when renovation is complete. Carlton can be reached on base at extension 3281 or at work at (508) 820-2019. Adams is available at extension 3283 on base or 527-5788 at home.

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Brig. Gen. McNeil named 22nd AF commander

ROBINS AFB, Ga. --Brig. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil, a traditional reservist, stepped up from vice commander to commander of 22nd Air Force at Dobbins ARB, Ga. in January.

The move occurred without ceremony. McNeil had been vice commander since December 1992. Before that, he was commander of the 514th Airlift Wing (Associate) at McGuire AFB, in N.J.

In civilian life, McNeil is manager of the Federation Aviation Administration's New York Flight Standards District Office.

His goals and objectives as commander are to assure wings in his command remain trained and combat ready. At the same time, he plans to ensure the command and its wings meet Air Force and Air Force Reserve expectations in terms of structure and mission, people and equipment, technology, installations and the environment.

"Our people need to be well-led, trained, challenged and culturally diverse," McNeil said. "Our force structure and mission should be good for America and the total force. Readiness and cost-effective resources to support it are top priorities."

In addition to his duties as commander, the general became chairman of the Reserve Career Management Board in January, replacing Brig. Gen. Robert Nester, mobilization assistant to the chief of Air Force Reserve. The board works issues affecting traditional reservists' careers, including promotions, assignment and benefits.

He became the first black general to preside over

Reserve Undergraduate Pilot Training Selection Board when it convened Jan. 12 at Dobbins. The board also included Lt. Col. Betty Mullis, 336th Air Refueling Squadron commander, from March AFB, Calif. She was the first women flying squadron commander to participate in a Reserve UPT selection board.

Effecting change is not new to McNeil. He and three of his friends made history Feb. 1, 1960, when they waited to be served at Woolworth's store lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C. In commemoration of that civil rights event, the counter and four stools was enshrined Jan. 14 at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

McNeil is modest about past accomplishments, instead he prefers to talk about present and future challenges.

"All of us must work hard to assure that true equal opportunity exists and that all aspects of our structure reflect inclusiveness, especially leadership," he said. "We live in a society where prejudice and sexual harassment exist. Our failure to address human rights concerns--sexual harassment, cultural and religious diversity--detract from mission readiness."

"The Air Force chief of staff (Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman) recently summarized the Air Force position on this issue. He said: 'The Air Force will not tolerate racial, religious, ethnic discrimination or sexual harassment--period. Our people are too valuable to be hamstrung by not being allowed to reach their full potential.' We must aggressively address these issues at the local as well as the national level." (AFRESNS)



Brig. Gen. Joseph A. McNeil

Reservist's rights...

Continued from page 1

reservist is also entitled to seniority rights accorded other employees on non-military leaves of absence.

When a reservist returns to work, USERRA deems that he or she must be "qualified," and the employer is required to provide training or retraining to help the reservist get back "up to speed" and to learn new equipment and methods. According to the law, the employer must also "make reasonable efforts," to accommodate disabled veterans or reservists.

Reservists who encounter problems with their employer can contact the Veteran's Employment and Train-

"The downsizing of the military over the last couple of years has meant more work for reservists and more occasion for duty."

***Lt. Col. Bruce Hawley
439th AW SJA***

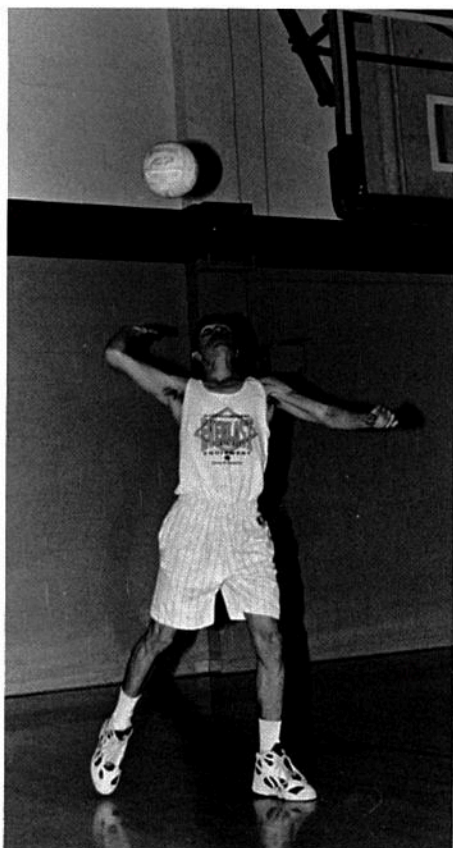


ing Service (VETS) of the U.S. Department of Labor to assist them. By calling 1-800-442-2VET, a reservist can obtain the address of the nearest VETS office.

The National Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve is another avenue for reservists

encountering hassles with their employer. The national ombudsman can be reached at 1-800-336-4590.

Westover personnel needing more information about their rights and the details of the new legislation can contact Lt. Col. Bruce Hawley at the legal office at 557-3180.



V-Ball

Base Services personnel hosted a volleyball tournament on March 4, and the 439th Logistics Support Squadron took first place.

Eight teams participated in the single elimination tournament. The 439th LSS beat the 58th APS team in two straight games in the final round.

The tournament is slated to be an annual event. Wing Commander Col. James P. Czekanski will present a commander's trophy to the winning unit.

The squadron sports monitors have teamed up with base recreation personnel for a full roster of coming events. Look for the following activities in spring and summer:

UTA aerobics, 5:30 p.m. at gym

Softball league forming in May

Beach sand volleyball league

Horseshoes at the pit by Club

Dart boards in Club by

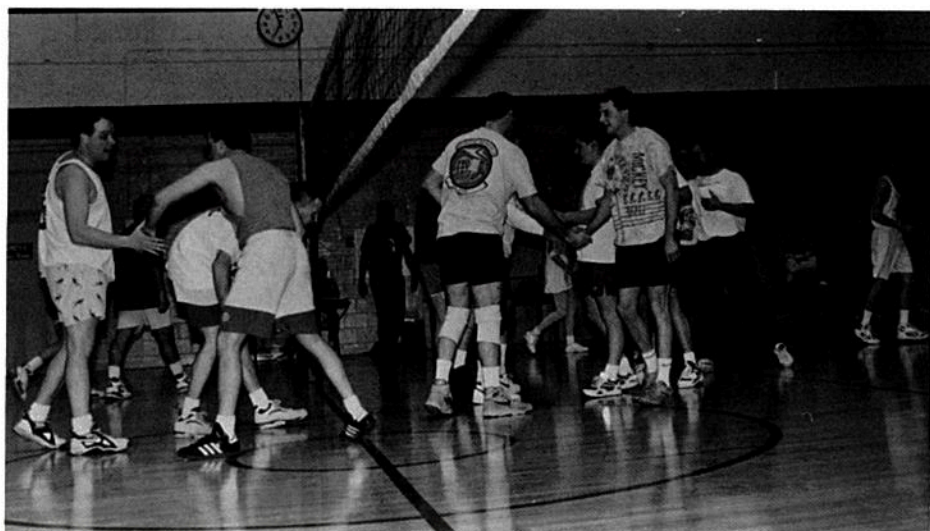
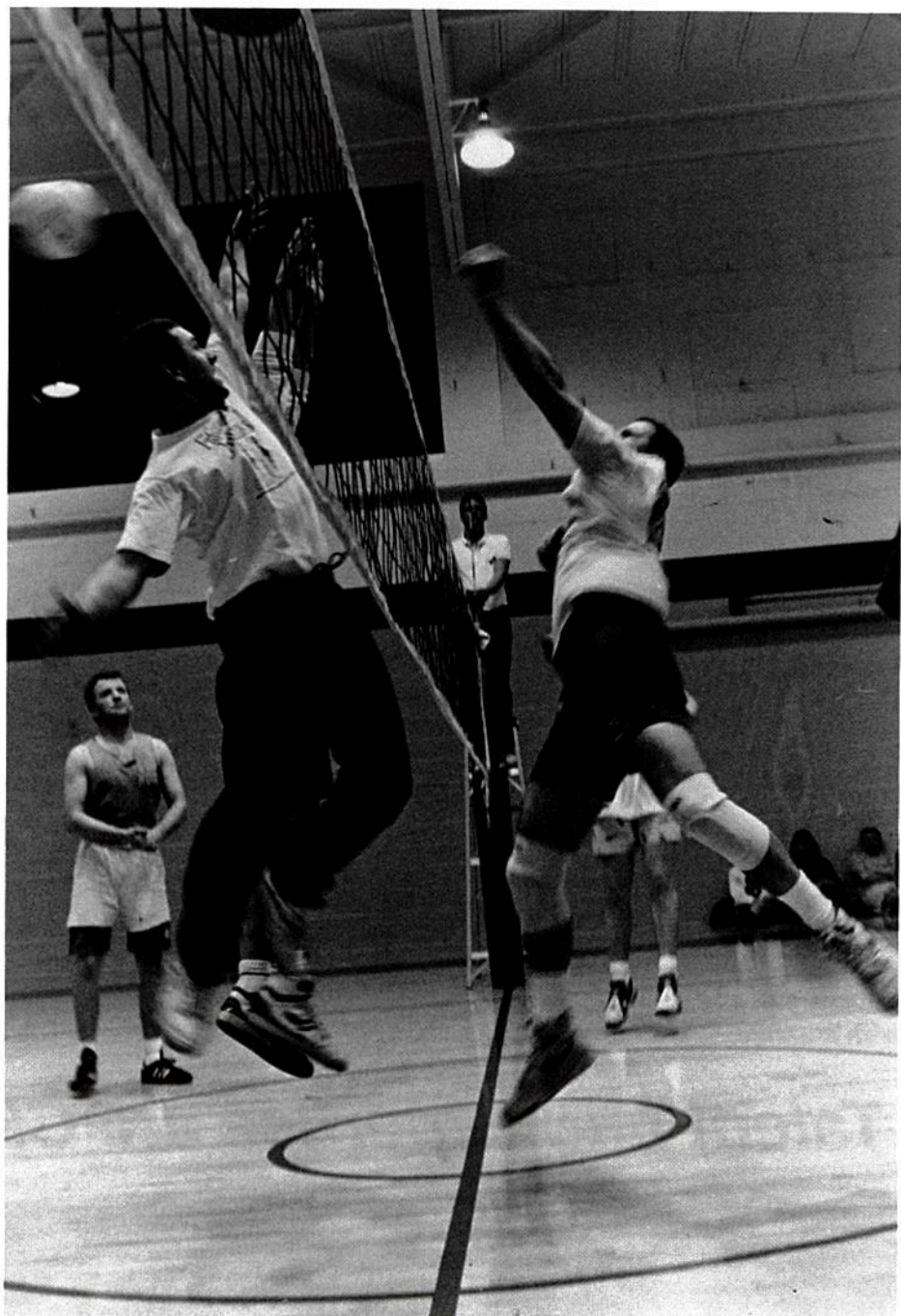
April/May

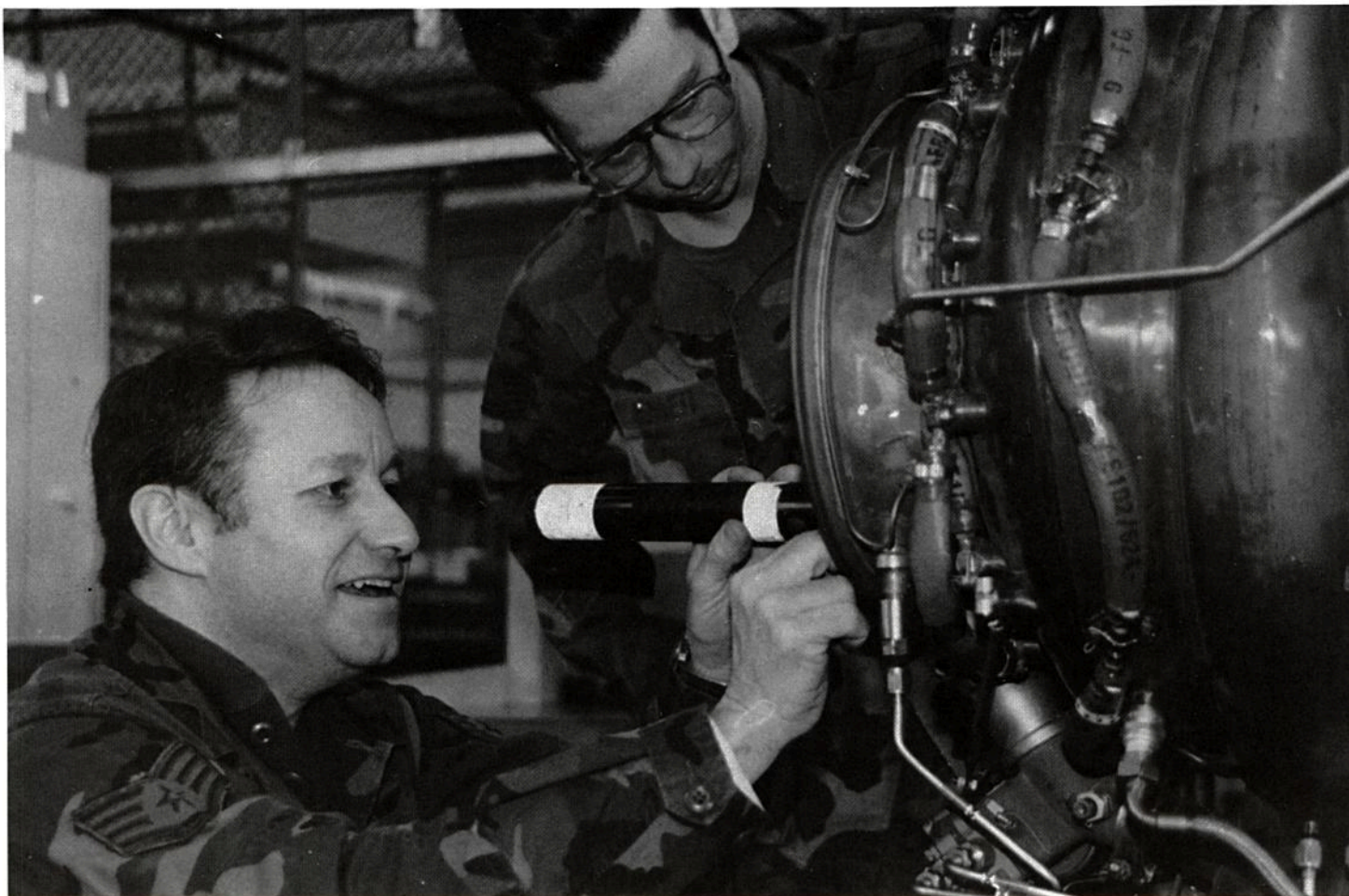
Extended pool hours on UTA

Fishing derby in the summer

Call TSgt. Mitch Staszko at Ext. 3958 with ideas or for information.

photos by TSgt. Sandi Michon





RESERVE REPAIR -- SSgt. Ian McLeish, left, and SSgt. Steven Ferreira, aerospace propulsion journeymen with the 439th CRS, inspect a C-5 auxiliary power unit,

while SSgt. Donna Duval, a 439th CRS avionics specialist, below, sets up testing equipment to diagnose a C-5 MADAR system.

Talent and expertise are CRS trademarks



**by 1st Lt. Mike Franco
photos by SSgt. Christine Mora**

From computers to aircraft engines, from navigational systems to jacking equipment, the 439th Component Repair Squadron fixes them all, and then some, to help keep Westover's C-5 fleet in the air.

The squadron, which went through a major organizational restructuring in 1994, consists of three flights: avionics, propulsion and aerospace ground equipment. The 147-member unit includes 63 full time technicians and 84 reservists.

The Avionics Maintenance Squadron became CRS in 1991 and later acquired propulsion and AGE flights from Equipment Maintenance Squadron last year, explained Lt. Col. Cranford O. Bost Jr., aircraft maintenance

officer and historian for the unit.

"CRS, EMS, and the Logistics Support Squadron now make up a maintenance triad under Logistics Group while AGS falls under Operations Group," Bost said.

Team environment

According to CMSgt. Paul Mersincavage, CRS superintendent, maintenance is implemented in accordance with two-level and Production Team Maintenance concepts.

"PTM combines specialties into a team environment," Mersincavage said. "Our mechanics and technicians cross-train for certification in each other's specialties. Shared job responsibilities provide a more effective work environment," he said.

"We have the talent, expertise and equipment to fix just about anything right here at Westover," he said.

SMSgt. Joseph M. Norton, conventional avionics superintendent agrees.

"Our people want to be involved in the entire maintenance process so they can fully utilize their talents," he said. "We have some of the most advanced test and diagnostic equipment available," Norton said.

Fleet upgraded

"Some of our most sophisticated equipment is used to test inertial navigation systems and MADAR," he said.

"The INS is a navigation system that updates aircraft location in flight while MADAR monitors guidance and control systems.

SMSgt. Chris Doyle, who is supervisor of the Com/Nav section explains that Westover's C-5 fleet is upgrading to newer MADAR II systems.

"More than half of our planes already have the more modern system," he said "and eventually all 16 of our aircraft will be up-graded."

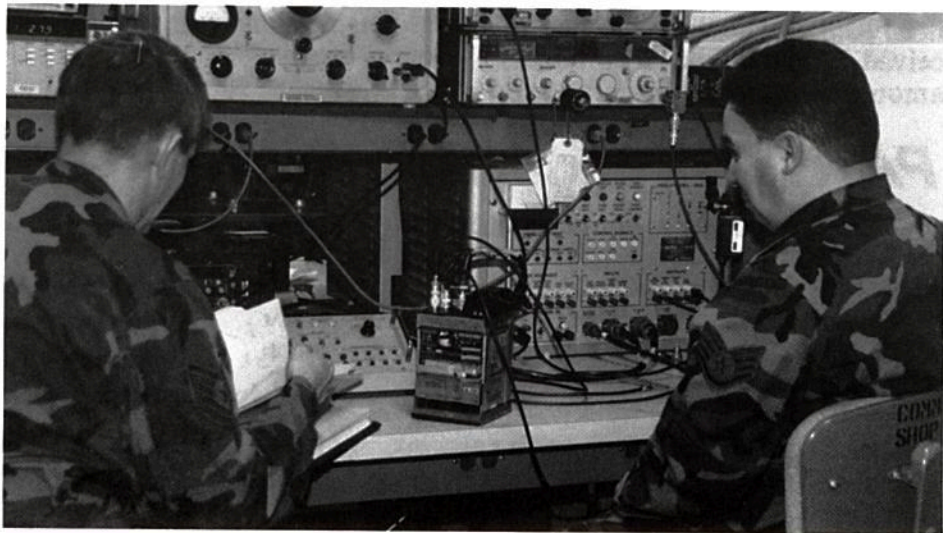
The squadron is also on the cutting edge of the Gold Disk Program, according to TSgt. Michael Dibrandisi, avionics guidance and control systems journeyman.

Gold Disk is a program that uses powerful computer software and hardware called the Huntron Tracker 5100DS to test the "health" of circuit cards from black boxes.

"This equipment produces com-



MULTI-PURPOSE — TSgts. Victor Marden and Paul Janexcek, 439th CRS aerospace ground equipment journeymen, move a heater unit outside Hangar 9, above. TSgt. Gerrit Faber and SSgt. Mitchell Abood, communications and navigation system craftsmen, test equipment below during a training class on ARC-186, a VHF radio.



puter images and schematic drawings that help avionics specialists find faulty components for replacement or repair," he said.

CRS' responsibilities spill over into the propulsion and AGE facilities located in Hangar Nine.

Propulsion's primary job is engine change, according to SMSgt. John E. Miller II, section chief.

Engine changes

A C-5 engine change involves the removal or installation of the mammoth TF-39 General Electric engines at the aircraft and mounting the engines on special, heavy-duty trailer stands.

In addition, propulsion technicians perform engine runs and isochronal inspections on TF-39's and auxiliary power units, Miller said.

A faulty engine is removed from the aircraft and prepared for shipment to Dover AFB, Del., for major repair, he said.

The squadron also services and repairs APU's on self-contained test cell stands, he said. Two APU's aboard a C-5 provide electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic power when its engines are not running.

Continued on page 10

Support Group, Medical Group grab honors

by Amn. Richard Cipolla

The awards keep rolling in.

The 439th Support Group and the 439th Medical Group each received 22nd Air Force Group Awards in February. The awards, presented by Wing Commander Col. James P. Czekanski, were graciously received on behalf of all members by 439th Support Group Commander Col. Franklyn E. Senft and 439th Medical Group Commander Col. Joseph A. Curley. "I don't believe there were any other support groups in AFRES that accomplished as much as we did last year," said Senft, alluding to the many awards and wide recognition the unit has won over the past 15 months. The 439th Security Police Squadron was selected as one of the two best units in AFRES, and civilian personnel received Flight of the Year honors, among numerous other awards



Col. Joseph A. Curley

throughout the group.

Being the support group on a base which won the organizational excellence award helped as well, Senft said.

Readiness, quality, accomplishments and inspections are all areas that gave the 439th SPTG top honors.

The 439th MG was recognized as Outstanding Medical Group at the 1993 22nd Air Force commanders meeting, and this year took the first formal award.

"In essence, we've been the best



Col. Franklyn E. Senft

medical group in the 22nd Air Force for the past two years," Curley said.

The award is particularly impressive because the group consists of geographically separated units -- the 722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Roslyn ANG; the 439th ASTS at Griffiss AFB; and the 439th Medical Squadron here at Westover.

The Medical Group also received one-third of all national individual awards, said Curley, a factor that weighed heavily in the recognition.

PATRIOT readership survey results and feedback

A readership survey was taken in January to assess the PATRIOT's effectiveness in meeting the information needs of Westover's 2,847 reservists.

The response was excellent and feedback was favorable. Approximately 10 percent responded, and more than 200 surveys were tabulated.

Results are listed along with responses to specific feedback:

- » 89% usually, or always read the Patriot
- » 85% read more than half or all of the Patriot
- » 92% rate the contents of the Patriot "good" to "excellent"
- » 93% rate the overall appearance of the Patriot "good" to "excellent"

Unit coverage and mission stories were the most frequently read features in the Patriot, but all features were widely read. The survey indicated the "Patriot People" was a popular feature. The third most tabulated response to "What do you like best about the Patriot?" was "everything."

When responding to the question, "What do you like least about the Patriot?", the most common response was "nothing." Other criticisms,

while not widespread, were noted, and include:

- » too small
- » not enough Air Force news
- » dislike of editorials/commentaries
- » arrives too late at home address

The Patriot page size, and number of pages, is set by AFRES policy and the Government Printing Office contract. We are allowed to expand the number of pages for one issue per year. Air Force news is included in each issue, but is usually localized to a base level. More attention will be given to inclusion of more Air Force news. Editorials are a mandatory section of the base newspaper. In response to the survey feedback, we will attempt to approach livelier topics.

Every effort is made to get the Patriot to reservists' homes prior to the following UTA. We will continue to expedite the publication, and delivery should improve.

Each squadron has a unit public affairs representative who helps funnel unit news to the Patriot staff. Anyone is welcome to call public affairs, at Ext. 2020, with story ideas, or news information.

The public affairs office wishes to thank all who participated in the survey.



All the way

photos by SSgt. Mike Greco

Seventy-two members of D Company, 1st. Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Mass. ANG participated in a parachute jump at Westover Feb. 26. Despite frigid temperatures, and one misplaced jumper, the exercise was successful. The Green Beret unit has been stationed at Westover since August 1994.



Patriot People

Name: Joseph A. Bellabona

Rank: TSgt.

Age: 32

Address: Salem, Mass.

Unit: 439th MDS

Position: NCIOC dental clinic

Civilian position: EMT/ nursing student

Favorite food: Pizza/Chinese food

Years of service: 12

Favorite sport: Football

Favorite hobby: Weight lifting/mountain climbing

Ideal vacation: Hiking in Himalayas

Best way to relax: In a recliner, candles, George Winston music in background

Preferred entertainment: Broadway shows

Favorite hero: Carl Jung

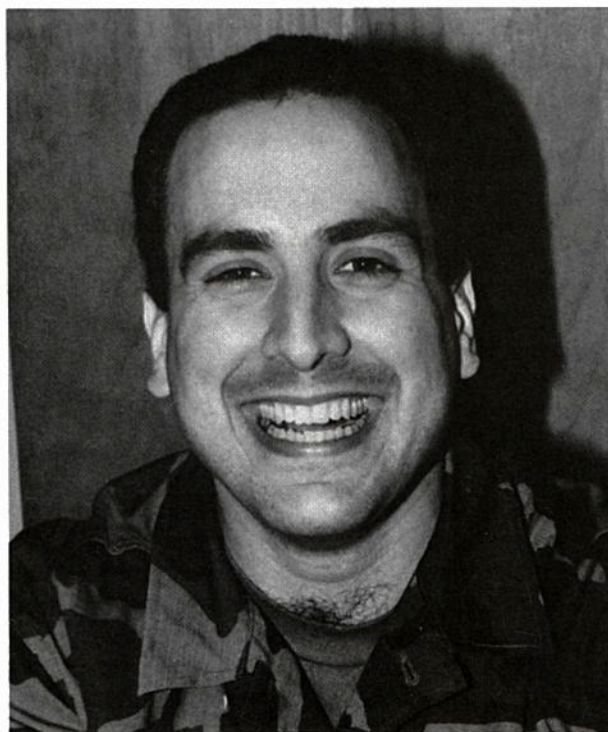
Favorite music: "Autumn", George Winston

Favorite movie: *Always*

Favorite aircraft: F-4

Pet peeve: People who are late

What I would do if I won \$1 million: Buy a yacht, dock it in Florida, fly friends down for cruises, go to medical school.



TSgt. Sandi Michon

TSgt. Joseph A. Bellabona

CRS

Continued from page 7

In January, Propulsion Flight hosted their own FTD (Field Training De tachment), training four of its technicians and completely servicing two APUs, Miller said.

The AGE Flight is the largest and most labor intensive shop in CRS and has about 45 members, said TSgt. Paul E. Beachell, aerospace equipment craftsman.

"We dispatch equipment to the maintenance teams and teach them how to use it," Beachell said.

The shop is also responsible for hazardous waste removal and containment for the squadron, he explained.

SMSgt. Edward T. Kolodjay, unit first sergeant, says CRS has some of the most motivated and highly trained people in the Air Force Reserve.

"We put our people first," said squadron commander Lt. Col. Diane Hamer. "After all, they are some of the brightest people in the Air Force. It is people like these who keep the Air Force flying."

PROMOTIONS

SMSgt. Allard, Robert A.
MSgt. Damon, Frederic J.
MSgt. Dumont, Eugene M.
MSgt. McKemmie, Nancy A.
MSgt. Swotchak, James H. Jr.
TSgt. Alfano, Tracie A.
TSgt. Blajda, Leonard E.
TSgt. Combs, Pamela R.
TSgt. Cornish, Michael A.
TSgt. Morales, Belitza
TSgt. Paquette, Michael G.
TSgt. Sierzego, Edward M. Jr.
TSgt. Sieboda, Katherine M.
SSgt. Bell, Bonnie C.
SSgt. Carey, Paul J.
SSgt. Davis, Stephanie A.
SSgt. Emo, Douglas W.
SSgt. Gerhardt, Clifford
SSgt. Gesslein, John J.
SSgt. Healey, Marianne S.
SSgt. Jalbert, Daniel R.
SSgt. Jones, Keith L.
SSgt. Kasuba, Christopher J.
SSgt. Landry, Keith W.
SSgt. Padden, William C.
SSgt. Zina, Michael
SrA. Babineau, David C.
SrA. Gauvreau, Richard W. Jr.
SrA. Rondeau, David L.
SrA. Sackett, Christopher B.
SrA. Sargwood, Edward J.
Amn. Cipolla, Richard
Amn. Dionne, Theresa B.
Amn. Ferri, Nicholas A.
Amn. Nealon, Craig T.

ENLISTMENTS

Sgt. Hart, George R.
Sgt. Ozycz, Jeremie T.
Sgt. Vitti, John
SrA. Crawford, Abdul M.
SrA. Salinas, Jaime

REENLISTMENTS

CMSgt. Brosseau, Roy R.
CMSgt. Ilardi, Joseph A.
SMSgt. Fetherston, Robert B.
MSgt. Abramson, Alda E.
MSgt. Cossaboom, Robert B.
MSgt. Dickinson, Andrew L.
MSgt. Hadley, Donald W.
MSgt. Lubrano, Joseph S.
MSgt. Mock, Martha A.
MSgt. Moore, Rita L.
MSgt. Polchlopek, Stanley
MSgt. Szmurlo, Charles M.
TSgt. Bevilacqua, Ronald
TSgt. Dunham, Thomas M.
TSgt. Favara, Francis A.
TSgt. Hoadley, Steven R.
TSgt. Leger, John D.
TSgt. Maldonado, Angel M.
TSgt. McGlynn, Eric R.
TSgt. Mitchell, James T.
TSgt. Pierce, Thomas J.
TSgt. Pursell, Dean L.
TSgt. Smith, Jason Robert
TSgt. Strange, Earl R.
TSgt. Weatherbee, Raymond G.
SSgt. Abare, Gary A.
SSgt. Andrews, Scott E.
SSgt. Bailey, Joseph G.

SSgt. Boucher, Daniel R.
SSgt. Clark, Christopher J.
SSgt. Cormier, Ronald J.
SSgt. Curto, Louis C.
SSgt. Dudley, Albert E.
SSgt. Gitzen, Leah M.
SSgt. Goodman, James M.
SSgt. Huther, Russell F.
SSgt. Iarossi, David A.
SSgt. Jendraszek, Dana F.
SSgt. Kent, Michael M.
SSgt. Kotfila, Shelli A.
SSgt. Laflamme, Paul C. II
SSgt. Lau, Scott W.
SSgt. McLeish, Ian R.
SSgt. Moorehead, Robert J.
SSgt. Myrdek, Renee A.
SSgt. Needham, Tracy D.
SSgt. Nitti, Ralph A.
SSgt. Paradis, Bruce W.
SSgt. Pelletier, David J.
SSgt. Prescott, Daniel R.
SSgt. Ragland, Carlis III
SSgt. Ritchens, Euclid B.
SSgt. Sala, David C.
SSgt. Sierzego, Edward M. Jr.
SSgt. Witt, Daniel C. Jr.
Sgt. Morris, Michael
SrA. Coote, Jaime T.
SrA. Diviney, Dirk
SrA. Harris, Kelly A.
SrA. Hunt, Garret A.
SrA. Kimball, Laurence D.
SrA. Manley, Wayne
SrA. Ouimette, Derek A.
SrA. Sullivan, Glen J.
SrA. Williams, Sean E.

Patriot Praises

Sell Reserve to your boss

We're often torn by different priorities in life, and the Air Force Reserve is one of many. Sometimes it seems that as dedicated as we are to our military careers, we have to make tough choices.

During the UTA, it's pretty exciting when your boss offers you that plum assignment, yet Monday morning, your civilian boss isn't exactly thrilled you'll be missing another week from work. Somehow, that TDY you thought was great 24 hours ago has turned into nothing but a hassle.

There are plenty of stories about your unit's annual tour falling right at the busiest time of the year for your civilian job. Your boss and co-workers are pretty steamed that you "get out of the work," while they have to do time and a half.

A highly-skilled Air Force Reservist often requires additional courses or technical schools. Your Reserve career depends on it, but your civilian boss wonders how he will do without you for three months.

You can really empathize with both situations, but it doesn't make your decision any easier. And, from the looks of things, we're only going to get busier.

Editorial

As the active duty turns over about 50 percent of the peacetime mission to the Air Force Reserve, there will be more and more requirements for additional duty. Performing the mission will mean tough choices for us, and tough circumstances for our employers.

Support for the military is a lot easier when the mission is clear cut--like the Gulf War. But today's missions are more obscure, and maybe not as notorious, but important just the same.

What's the solution? Well, it's not easy. We have organizations like the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve to help us out. We try to positively publicize our mission through media and the community groups. We invite employers and civilians to tour our base in the hopes that they'll understand just what we're all about. Maybe it's not enough.

Perhaps if we let employers into our world a little bit, they would be more sympathetic to the choices we have to make. Show them the next PATRIOT. Invite them to the next Employer Support Day. Fill them in about reserve happenings on a regular basis--not just when it's time to request leave.

Giving employers a better understanding about the Air Force Reserve might help them to be more understanding when it's time for you to be an Air Force Reservist.

by SSgt. Christine Mora
PA Specialist

Briefs

Westover to host outdoor game fair

The Springfield Armory, in conjunction with the National Park Service will conduct an outdoor festival and game fair at Westover June 16 to 18.

National sports organizations scheduled to take part in the event include the U.S. Summer Biathlon, the U.S. Equestrian team, the U.S. Fencing team, the U.S. Shooting team, the U.S. Archery team, North American Retrieving Association, North American Bass Anglers and Sporting Clays of America.

For information, contact:

Springfield Armory
National Park Trust
P.O. Box 964,
Southport, Ct. 06490
Tel. (203) 221-4599

VA establishes information line

WASHINGTON (AFNS)

Veterans Affairs has established a toll-free number to inform Persian Gulf veterans and their families of available medical care and other benefits. The line, 1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387) was activated last month.

VA also provides information on benefits, medical care and research, including Persian Gulf veterans, on an electronic bulletin board available 24-hours-a-day. VA-ONLINE may be accessed by callers with a personal computer that includes a modem and a communications package. The toll-free number for bulletin board is 1-800-US1-VETS (1-800-871-8387).

MAY UTA DATES
A UTA 06-07
B UTA 20-21

Longworth retires as base fire chief

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Westover has been a large part of Joe Longworth's life for more than 20 years and when he retired as the base's fire chief last month he became nostalgic.

"I fell in love with this place," he said as he looked back over his long and fruitful career. "My youngest daughter was born in the base hospital. Westover has been very good to me."

Longworth joined the Air Force in 1954 and after tours in Bermuda, Alaska and France, he came to Westover in 1965 during the Strategic Air Command era. "Things were a lot different then," he remembered. "The fire department had 72 firefighters and four stations. We were charged with protecting a wing of B-52s and a wing of KC-135s, dozens of military buildings as well as 1,500 family housing units."

He retired from active duty in 1974 took a job as a fire prevention inspector at the base. He became chief in December 1991 replacing his long-time friend and mentor, Haskell Jenkins who retired.

"Joe Longworth is a true professional," said Col. James P. Gallin, vice commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. "We have been blessed to have him



Joe Longworth

here. He was totally successful in his job."

During his tenure Longworth has worked long and hard to foster good relations with neighboring fire departments and is most proud of his department's growth into the fields of hazardous material cleanup, emergency medical care and combined space rescue training.

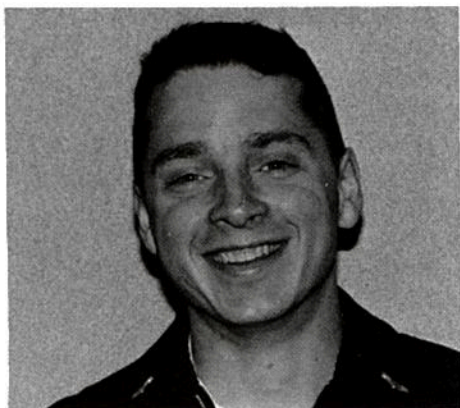
"Our department is very well equipped and we have some capabilities that other departments don't have

so we're always willing to lend a hand if we can," he said.

Recently, he said, his department dispatched its air trailer to a major fire in Palmer. The equipment allows air packs to be filled at the scene, he explained. "We're the only department around with that capability," he said.

Longworth and his wife Francoise, who he married while serving in France, plan to travel and enjoy retirement.

PATRIOT



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